3

CLAIMS

1	1. In a video on demand system for supplying video data in response to a user request, the
2	improvement comprising:
3	a. A plurality of video servers each capable of supplying video data to said user;
4	and
5	b. A multimedia application server responsively coupled to said plurality of video
6	servers which receives said request from said user and directs a particular one of said
7	plurality of video servers to supply said video data to said user in response to said user
8	request.
	·
1	2. The video on demand system of claim 1 further comprising logic which selects said
2	particular one of said plurality of video servers based upon said particular one of said plurality of
3	video servers already having said video data loaded.
1	3 The video on demand system of claim 1 further comprising logic which selects said

particular one of said plurality of video servers based upon which of said plurality of video servers is least utilized.

2

3

1

2

1

2

3

4

5

6

1

2

3

1

2

3

- 4. The video on demand system of claim 1 further comprising logic which selects said particular one of said plurality of video servers based upon which of said plurality of video servers has sufficient unused storage space.
- 5. The video on demand system of claim 1 further comprising logic which replaces a previous video program from said one of said plurality of video servers with said video data.
 - 6. An apparatus comprising:
 - a. A video program request generated by a user;
 - b. A plurality of video servers each capable of streaming said video program to said user; and
 - c. A multimedia application server which receives said video program request and directs one of said plurality of video servers to streaming said video program to said user.
- 7. An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said plurality of video servers has already loaded said video program.
- 8. An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said multimedia server further comprises logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said plurality of video servers is least busy.

2

3

2

3

5

6

1

2

3

1	9. An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said multimedia application server further
2	comprises a logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said
3	plurality of video servers has sufficient unused storage space.

- 10. An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises logic which directs said one of said plurality of video servers to swap said video program for an existing video program.
 - 11. A video on demand system comprising:
 - a. Means for receiving a user request for a video program;
 - b. Plurality of means for streaming said video program; and
 - c. Means responsively coupled to said receiving means and said plurality of streaming means for directing one of said plurality of streaming means to stream said video program to said user in response to said request.
- 12. A video on demand system according to claim 11 wherein said directing means further comprises means for selecting said one of said plurality of streaming means having said video program resident.

2

3

1

2

3

1

2

3

1

2

3

1	13. A video on demand system according to claim 11 wherein said directing means
2	further comprises means for choosing said one of said plurality of streaming means having
3	sufficient free storage to store said video program.

- 14. A video on demand system according to claim 11 wherein said directing means further comprises means for identifying said one of said plurality of streaming means having a previous video program which may be removed to accommodate said video program.
- 15. A video on demand system according to claim 14 wherein said directing means further comprises means for determining that said one of said plurality of streaming means has sufficient capacity for streaming said video program.
- 16. A method of selecting one of a plurality of video servers for streaming a video program to a user comprising:
 - a. Receiving a message from said user requesting said video program; and
- b. Selecting one of a plurality of video servers to stream said video program to said user.
 - 17. A method according to claim 16 wherein said selecting step further comprises:
 - a. Determining which of said plurality of video servers already has said video program resident.



	4
	1

1	18. A method according to claim 16 wherein said selecting step further comprises:
2	a. Ascertaining which of said plurality of video servers has sufficient storage space
3	to contain said video program.
1	19. A method according to claim 16 wherein said selecting step further comprises:
2	a. Directing said one of said plurality of video servers unload a previously loaded
3	video program and load said video program.
1	20. A method according to claim 16 wherein said directing step further comprises:
2	a. Inhibiting said unloading of said previously loaded video program if the
3	performance utilization of said previously loaded program is greater than the performance
4	utilization of said video program.